Step show acts yield positive response

By Jordana Tusman

During one performance of the step show, Step of the Living Dead, members of one drill team blindfolded themselves and failed to miss a beat. One girl jumped blindfolded onto another’s shoulders as they marched off stage.

The show took place on Oct. 29 in the Bart Luedeke Center (BLC) Theater and was sponsored by the Intercultural Greek Council (IGC), Black Student Union (BSU) and the Latinos for Academic and Social Excellence (LASE). It was coordinated by Jessely DeLaCruz, a member of Lambda Theta Alpha and president of the IGC. All coordinators involved in the show met during the summer and worked to prepare the show since June.

“I heard about the show through a few friends of mine that were participating in it,” said sophomore Alexandra Hussey. “I heard the performances would be good, so I was excited to see what was in store.”

Hosted by Phi Beta Sigma alumni, Alex Jerido and Najia Carter, the night began with an introduction to the five judges, followed with a performance from The Paramus Catholic Drill Team, based out of Paramus, N.J.

“I loved Paramus Catholic High School,” said sophomore Kimberly Sunder. “They definitely shocked me when they marched blindfolded.”

The drill team members wore black and white matching uniforms and stepped without the presence of music.

“Everyone was really good. I loved it,” said one of the show’s coordinators, and a member of Phi Beta Sigma, senior Donald Desi. “I always enjoyed being in the shows because I’ve been doing step shows since high school and everytime I get on stage it’s a big rush.”

The ladies of Delta Sigma Theta performed first for Rider. They stepped and chanted in black hats and suits and red ties.

Because Chi Upsilon Sigma didn’t perform, there was a longer intermission.

“The overly long intermission between the acts made it seem like they weren’t prepared,” said Sanders.

Lambda Tau Omega concluded the act with their exhibition step around the stage. While the crowd waited an extensive amount of time for the intermission to end, a young boy from the audience surprised everyone by making his way onto the stage and starting his routine. During the course of the show, other kids in the audience took his lead and brought their moves to the stage as well.

“Everyone performed well,” said Hussey. “but the best was when the kids jumped on stage and started shaking their booties to the music.”

The stops of Lambda Sigma Upsilon also performed. The crowd had a few laughs when, at one point, the boys interrupted their routine and broke out into dance songs.

This was shortly followed by Phi Beta Sigma’s appearance in white Adidas sports suits, where they stepped and chanted and followed the Drill Team’s lead by stepping blindfolded as well. They concluded with throwing roses to the girls in the audience.

To bring the show to a close, Rider’s dance team made their way to the stage and showed the audience what they were made of.

“Being in the show was fun,” said sophomore Julianne Hussey. “All of the performances had a lot of energy and it gave me such an adrenaline rush.”

At the conclusion of the show, Delta Sigma Theta and Phi Beta Sigma were crowned the winners.

“Phi Beta Sigma’s what’s up,” said Lewis. “Preparation for the step show included two to three hour-a-day practices three to four times a week. The music was provided by DJ W. "I had a lot of fun helping to coordinate the show and putting it together,” said Desi. "Hopefully, next year it will be even bigger and better.”

Members of Lambda Tau Omega also participated in the step exhibition on Friday night.

Greeks initiating changes towards improvement

By Randy Townsend

New changes in Greek life have been implemented in order to increase the social responsibility involved in recruiting new members and maintaining a standard of university citizenship.

Branded by national incidents of hazing and unbecoming acts by rogue members, Greeks have found the need to improve their image while continuing to have fun. Officially, gatherings are focused on four key areas: improving the images of Greeks on campus: new members, organized management, citizenship and leadership.

“I think they are struggling with the same issues as other campuses across the country,” said Ada Badgley, the Director of Greek Life. “We want the Greeks to have fun, but in a safe way.”

Students attended “Recruitment Boot Camp” to learn new strategies for recruitment. Their ideas for new events, membership training and enforced standards have led to 31 new fraternity members and 39 new sorority members this past bid day.

Three Greek organizations also improved their housing and facilities. Zeta Beta Tau renovated their lounge area. Phi Kappa Tau is attempting to install new flooring in their hallways and Zeta Beta Alpha (ZTA) just created a fitness room in their basement featuring treadmills, elliptical machines and free weights.

Chapters recognize that they must train and educate members for their responsibilities of events and new rushes, according to Badgley. Most chapters attended the newly created “Social Monitor Training” and “New Educator Training” to become aware of rules they are responsible for enforcing. Council members have worked to change the Greek Social Policy and Greek Judicial Boards Policy for an increase of responsibility and a self-government model. There has also been significant improvement to the Greek 101 series, which emphasizes the importance of college life and the Greek community.

“It’s a slow process because there are 400 Greek students,” said Badgley. “Leadership is taking great steps.”

For the first time in two years the Pan-Hellenic Council attended the Northeast Greek Leadership Association Conference in Philadelphia, where representatives of all chapters were on hand. Past summer ZTA and Delta Phi Epsilon received awards for recognition for their chapter efforts at Rider University.

The councils are doing their best to celebrate their achievements through the Greek Awards Banquet held on Oct. 29 in the Bart Luedeke Center, where representatives of all chapters were on hand for loud music. When Security arrived, one female student was leaving the room to use a nearby bathroom. When the door opened, Security observed a glass smoking device in plain view, and confiscated the object. A search of the room yielded no further paraphernalia. The LPD responded to the scene and took one of the students into custody. He was charged with possession and both students were charged with campus violations.

Bobbing in the Toilet, No Apples Found

An underage female student got extremely sick from consuming too much alcohol and was found in a restroom in Hill. On Sunday at 11:28 p.m., Security arrived at Hill and the female stated she had been consuming alcohol. Because of her level of intoxication, Security notified an ambulance and she was transported to a nearby hospital for further treatment.

SECURITY BRIEFS

Tough Guys Don’t Hide

A male resident was arrested for vandalism and possession of a weapon. On Friday at 2:18 a.m. Security was responding to another situation when they observed a verbal altercation taking place involving a group of students near the stairwell of the Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT) house. When they tried to break it up, the student continued to argue and threaten others. He became belligerent with the Security officers and with the Lawrence Police Department (LPD). The LPD advised the student to leave and when he finally did, he shouted profanities en route to Poya, where he punched several holes into the window of the front door. He tried to hide, but the LPD found him and, during the struggle to arrest him, they found he was wearing brass knuckles. He was taken to the LPD for processing, and he was charged with weapons violations.

The Nose Knows

Two male students were found in possession of drug paraphernalia when a female staff member reported a strong odor of marijuana coming from their room in Poya. At 2:59 a.m. on Friday she called Security to report the smell and said she had warned them previously that night for loud music. When Security arrived, one male student was leaving the room to use a nearby bathroom. When the door opened, Security observed a glass smoking device in plain view, and confiscated the object. A search of the room yielded no further paraphernalia. The LPD responded to the scene and took one of the students into custody. He was charged with possession and both students were charged with campus violations.